WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street, Room 700
San Francisco 3, California
Western Region

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending February 2, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Affecting the carlot movement of all agricultural products, ICC and ODT have placed embargoes on placement of cars for loading or issuance of bills of lading for carload or LCL freight consigned, reconsigned, or to be reconsigned to destinations in or moving via any railroad through the states of Ohio (exclusive of Wabash Railway and Cincinnati switching limits) Pa., NY., NJ., Md., Del., D.C., and West Virginia and Virginia north of C&O RR from Huntington to Potomac yard. Traffic billed during the embargo period cannot subsequently be reconsigned to or through the embargoed area. Exceptions on fruits and vegetables are traffic moving for export on ODT export unit permits; government ladings issued by Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard , and essential traffic for armed forces, for WSA or WFA when certified by properly designated officer of these agencies.

This move will affect all fresh fruit and vegetable crops now being harvested in this region. May cause serious delay in shipments in some instances.

Potatoes - Shipments of potatoes out of Idaho have increased during the past week to 721 cars, 7 percent above the movement for the previous week. Nationally, shipments decreased from 4,709 cars to 4,199 cars, compared with the previous week. Car curtailment and changes in ceiling prices have worked toward materially reducing shipments. Total movement this season to date, Idaho 25,443 cars, U.S. 195,021 cars; last season to same date, Idaho 25,481 cars, U.S. 209,831 cars.

Prices remain at ceiling, both wholesale and fob, with demand exceeding present available supplies reaching wholesale markets.

Apples - Most wholesale markets now report larger numbers of varieties available, but in the lower grades than those being set aside for the military, and there appear to be plentiful supplies of these lower grades. However, ceiling prices are prevalent in all the western markets.

Lettuce - 1,702 cars moved into market channels from the Western Region the past week, 18 additional from other states made up the total of 1,720 for the U.S. Total carlot movement for the season: Western Region 7,342 cars U.S. 22,009 cars, compared with 19,931 cars from the U.S. last season to the same date.

Fob shipping point prices, Brawley, California, at the close of the week were mostly $2.25 per crate of 4s and 5s. Wholesale prices were mostly 50 to 75 cents higher, with all the main markets showing about the same range.

Onions - Supplies, during the past week have moved at the rate of 101 cars daily. Demand has remained good, and prices have held strong with a slight gain over the close of the previous week. Saugus "Browns" in Los Angeles were quoted at $1.75 to $2.00 per 50-pound bag.

Oranges - To date this season 33,249 cars of oranges have been shipped into the markets, compared with 34,081 cars last season to the same date. The past week, 2,540 cars moved from the U.S. producing areas, 1,130 of these from the Western Region.

Range in top prices, on the western wholesale for good grade stock at the close of the week, were, 220s and larger, $3.50 to $4.50 per box, and 334s and smaller, $4.25 to $5.25 per box, with the Pacific Northwest taking the higher range.

Temperature reports for Friday, February 2, show the orange producing sections of Florida to have been hit by freezing temperatures of 24 to 30 degrees. No estimates yet available on any damage to the crop.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - According to the National Dairy Council, milk production has not kept pace with increased demand for additional milk by-products as well as the increased demand for butter. Although milk production has increased more than 14 billion pounds since 1942, there are total increased requirements of 18½ billion pounds of milk, of which 8 billion pounds are necessary for extra cheese, dry whole milk, evaporated milk and ice cream for our military and for lend-lease. An additional 10½ billion pounds are needed here on our own ground for civilians and war workers. Thus we are 4½ billion pounds short to meet the needs for butter.

Industry Committees, in order to provide more butter for civilian trade, have recommended three possible moves: (1) Increase milk-feed subsidy rate from 1/6, now in effect, to 1/4. (2) Extend limitation orders to cover all sales of cream. (3) Increase by 6 cents per pound the maximum price for butter as set forth in RMPR #289.

In most markets quota restrictions are being closely adhered to and supplies do not meet demand. Situation is intensified by freezing temperatures and unfavorable weather, as well as the restrictions on rail transportation.

Eggs - In general the western markets were receiving slightly increased supplies, but demand throughout the week remained in excess of available supplies.

Poultry - Demand during the week remained far in excess of avilable supplies. This condition prevailed in all the major western markets. The factor which seemed to be causing most of the unbalance, was poor weather conditions preventing delivery to buying stations.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle - 17,708 head were received the past week on the four western markets, compared with 18,725 head for the week previous. There was again, however, on the twelve principal markets an increase of 6 percent over the previous week making a total of 233,300 head for the past week.

Top prices on the western markets for good fed steers ranged $15.00 to $16.75, with choice steers at a top of $17.75.

Hogs - Support weights held firmly at ceiling prices during the week, and demand was strong. Receipts on the twelve principal markets were but 80 percent of those for the previous week, and only 38 percent of those for the same week last year. On the four western markets showed a 17 percent gain over the previous week to 11,223 head.

Sheep - Receipts on the four western markets the past week were up 36 percent over the previous week to a total of 24,022 head, while on the twelve principal markets receipts were 226,600 head, 87 percent of receipts for the previous week and 113 percent of the receipts for the same week a year ago.

Prices were up at the close of the week about 25 cents, and top prices quoted on good to choice fat lambs were $15.10 on 110 pound weights, and $16.50 on some 97 pound stock.

Wool - Wool growers were assured by the Quartermaster Corps, at the National Wool Growers meeting in Texas, that the QMC would continue to use the maximum proportion of domestic wools found practicable in future orders for the army.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat - Western Region wheat markets were slightly weaker than for the week earlier. Declines of 1 cent to 1½ cents were reported on most of the markets. This movement was in contrast to the movement on markets in the middle east, where rail congestion was interfering with normal movement.

Prices Western Region at close of week: (basis #1)

	Soft White	Western Red	Hard Red Winter
Portland	$1.52½ Bu.	$1.53 Bu.	$1.52½
San Francisco	1.74 Bu.		
Los Angeles	1.71 Bu.		

Barley - Barley markets in the West followed an irregular trend with wheat, and were lower in demand and prices in California and the southwest. The northwest remained steady with prices at ceiling.

BAE figures show barley stocks on January 1, 1945, to be 213 million bushels, compared with 217.5 million bushels a year ago.

Alfalfa - Recent rains and favorable growing weather in the alfalfa sections of the West have improved the prospects for better early supplies of alfalfa hay, and early crop pasturing has increased. Prices on baled hay have remained up but demand has not improved, and offerings from growers are reported heavier.

########